

California GARDEN

FORTY-FIRST YEAR

WINTER, 1950

VOLUME 41, NO. 4

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Compositor.....Mabel Hazard

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

Unless otherwise stated, the following meeting will be held in the Floral Association Building, southwest of the Organ, in Balboa Park.

DECEMBER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 . . . 1 to 5 p.m.

Open House

By general request — exhibit and demonstration of: Shrubs as Novel Christmas Decorations about the House—Chauncey Jerabek, Horticulturist, Nursery Division, Balboa Park.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 . . . 8 p.m.

Monthly Meeting of Floral Association

Illustrated Lecture: A California Bug Man Looks at European Gardens—Norvell Gillespie.

JANUARY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 . . . 1 to 5 p.m.

Open House

Garden Ideas—Plans, Pictures and Gadgets—a chance to talk it over, in charge of Alfred C. Hottes.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7 . . . 8 p.m.

Monthly Meeting of Floral Association

Lecture — Horticulture and Public Relations—Howard Keddy.

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 . . . 1 to 5 p.m.

Open House

Exhibit of Flowers and Plants featuring Camellias—Arranged by Convair Garden Club.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 . . . 2 p.m.

Monthly Meeting of Floral Association

in combination with the Natural History Society in the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park. A Conservation Symposium led by Guy L. Fleming.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) of CALIFORNIA GRADEN published Quarterly at San Diego, California for Winter, 1950. Publisher: San Diego Floral Association, Balboa Park, San Diego, California. Editor: Dorothy Abbott. Compositor: Mabel Hazard.

California Garden

Forty-First Year

WINTER, 1950

Volume 41, No. 4

Sally Bancroft, heretofore best-known as a delightful artist, in this issue shares with us in writing her experience of meeting the Poinsettia King. An ardent and artistic gardener, she is an officer of the Delcadia Garden Club, Encinitas.

Poinsettias

SALLY BANCROFT

The poor, tattered little Mexican waif had no gift for the Virgin Mary at Christmas, the time when one and all present an offering. Little Pedro finally thought of taking some stalks of a plant under which he was resting, because the large leaves gave him such pleasant shade. It was a poor gift, but the plant had been so friendly, so kind, surely the Virgin Mary would understand. The child carried the heavy branches to the church and placed them before the altar. In the morning when the congregation gathered, all were amazed to see that the top of each stalk carried a tumultuous red flower!

Such is one of the mythological stories of the origin of the poinsettia, the *Flor de la Nochebuena*, Flower of the Holy Night, in Mexico.

The botanical mind knows a different version as to the origin. The actual flowers of the poinsettia are very inconspicuous. The flaming red parts are leaves or bracts which nature probably found necessary to alter from green to red in order to attract the insects to the flower for the work of pollinating. An American statesman, Joel Roberts Poinsett, our first minister to Mexico, brought back to this country in 1823 the beautiful plant which he called the "Painted Leaf." He propa-

gated cuttings of it on his estate in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1833 a few of these were sold to Robert Buist, a Philadelphia nurseryman. After consultation with European botanists it was decided that this plant was a member of the spurge family, or *Euphorbia*. Then it was given the descriptive Latin name *pulcherrima*, signifying that it is the most beautiful of the entire spurge family. Blooming in the middle of winter when color is scarce, it is no wonder that it has become symbolic with the Christmas season—the Flower of the Holy Night.

Still another person—Paul Ecke—has carried on the work of bringing the poinsettia to every doorstep. Born in 1895, Mr. Ecke learned the growing of these plants from his father. Now he is known as the "Poinsettia King," the largest grower of this specialty in the world.

At this season, hundreds of acres in various locations near the coast between San Diego and Los Angeles are blanketed with his flaming red poinsettia flowers. Enjoying them from the thoroughfares, we may stop the car and look—but—we must not enter. Unfortunately a sign, "for wholesale dealers only," has become necessary in many places where there is living beauty, because of nematodes clinging to shoes, or

because of damage to plants when people walk among them. Whatever the reason, it should be remembered that these are first of all places of business, not public parks. This being the case, will you let me take you on an armchair visit to these Christmas flowers?

We turn off the highway to enter a long driveway lined with noble specimens of eucalyptus trees, beyond which are expansive fields of poinsettias. Toward the end of the driveway the workmen's cars are parked between the trees. The road takes us between the owner's home and several glasshouses. We must be careful to park our car out of the way of the many trucks coming and going, and of the large freight vans that soon will be leaving.

The office is in this first building, the original farm cottage. How busy it is! Five women with each desk stacked high. The space, crowded. The files occupying the once open fireplace. The cordless P.B.X. switchboard buzzing for incoming and outgoing calls. Paul Ecke will have just a few minutes to spend with us, to take us around.

This enormous barn back of the house appears to be a storage place, and a loading area for the large freight trucks. On up the hill toward the next barn, Mr. Ecke tells

us, the farm equipment, the machinery, the tractors and the twenty trucks are kept. It takes between eighty and one hundred helpers to operate his business, with even more at rush seasons. (I know some very large orchardists who have far fewer employees, except at fruiting season.) There are other, smaller sheds farther over, but not of particular interest to us.

Mr. Ecke now turns to cross the road to enter a hot house. In October it is filled with bench after bench of green poinsettia cuttings, rooting in sand. We are instantly aware of Mr. Ecke's keenness of eye. There seems to be a subtle change. His head moves with a quick glance, it is as though he sees every plant in each of the long benches throughout the entire building. We move on through this green world to where men are potting poinsettias from the little two-inch pots to pans containing three or five plants. Upon questioning, Mr. Ecke tells us that the bulk of his business is the shipping of potted plants to larger greenhouses in the east. Formerly the flowers were cut for florists, but now only the local area is thus supplied. No matter how much is done in burning or scalding the stems to seal in the milky sap so the plant will not bleed to death, the keeping quality of the poinsettias is not always assured.

We move along through one green house after another. Always Paul Ecke is alert to each plant and to every workman. We notice plants whose petioles are green instead of red. "Yes, those are white flowering poinsettias." "Are they pure white or yellowish?" "When grown *under glass*, they are a pure white." It was in 1927 that Mr. Ecke first noticed, with great surprise, the double poinsettia. (Now wherever it appears, we know that the original stock came to us through the efforts of this

man.)* *Euphorbia pulcherrima* makes a good, sturdy garden plant, but most varieties grow too tall for potted Christmas plants. And, like as not, all the leaves will drop at just the wrong time, leaving a long bare stalk with a flower on its end. Through years of work a smaller-growing, more luxuriant appearing plant has been developed.

(What of these fields, acres and acres of poinsettias?) They are the stock plants from which come the cuttings. The eastern greenhouses carry over very little of their stock from year to year. Always limited for space, they depend upon Mr. Ecke and the California climate for a new start each year. If one frost year follows another, in these fields it is most disastrous! Eastern greenhouses like to have their first shipment of dormant brown root cuttings the day after Easter. These, the spring harvest of poinsettias, are freighted right to their door.

As we walk back toward the office we ask if Mr. Ecke does any distributing himself. "Yes. To our desert areas—Arizona, New Mexico, Southern California. It doesn't matter how small the place is, or where in the desert, I'll send them plants. The big freight trucks pick up here in the evening. By morning they are in Phoenix, and have

stopped at any little "jerk-water" place along the way. Do you know where Ajo is? In Arizona. We deliver there."

"Would you like to see my newest poinsettia? It is being patented this year and will be on the market in 1951." The newest doesn't look like the poinsettia we know. The flower is in a tight bunch, more like a scarlet peony. The leaves are quite small, wavy and curled, about two or two and a half inches in length. Though it will not make a good pot plant it will be an interesting and attractive garden subject.

As the sun sets in the Pacific, we leave Mr. Ecke, with a deep feeling of appreciation for one whose foresight, ability and horticultural skill have so well earned him the title of Poinsettia King at the same time they have brought distinction to Southern California.

* DOUBLE POINSETTIA

In Vol. IV, page 143 of the English publication, "The Garden," for 1873, there is a wood-cut and an account of the introduction of a new double poinsettia. It was found by M. Benedicto Roelz in May of that year in Mexico. The flower clusters were 14 to 18 inches across and 6 inches high. Stock was in the hands of a Mr. Buchanan of New York at that time and the illustration was borrowed from the American Agriculturist.

In March, 1876, "The Garden" presented an illustration in half size but full color, of the double poinsettia which first flowered in Europe in 1875. The article, which is unsigned, contains a full description of this new variety, which is called POINSETTIA PULCHERRIMA PLENISSIMA.

—A.C.

Your editor, in interviewing last year's winners in the Junior Chamber of Commerce Poinsettia Sweepstakes, gets some—

Pointers on Poinsettias

The Junior Chamber of Commerce Second Annual Poinsettia Sweepstakes, for the purpose of publicizing San Diego, is set for December 10, and has poinsettia enthusiasts out measuring their blooms for the largest, and taking inventory of their plants for the most prolific, with hopes of win-

ning the handsome plaques given by the Junior Chamber in the competition.

Using the prize-winning plants of last year as a basis for comparison, many aspirants are stopping by 2718 Upas St., the home of Dr. J. R. Matson, who won the prize for growing the largest bloom,

Ada McLouth simplifies your Christmas shopping by recommending these books for your horticulturally-minded friends.

Books for Christmas

ADA McLOUTH

Many of us want books for Christmas, and some of us choose to spend our Christmas money for books. A number of those listed below are available in our book shops. All are in print or just appearing and can be ordered if not immediately available.

and are counting blooms on the "most prolific" winner at the home of Dr. Wesley R. Herbert, 3262 Main St., Lemon Grove.

Dr. Matson, whose 22 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch bloom carried off the honors for size, advises: "Plant preferably on east side in well-drained soil. Light fertilization is required, and like other plants they do not like crowding.

Success in preserving the blooms depends a lot on the protection given the plant. Blooming in late November and mid-December, it is wise to plant them in a spot protected from cold winds. Proximity to a fence or house also affords protection from summer heat, and if irrigation is overlooked temporarily, the soil does not dry out as rapidly as in more exposed sections.

"During February and March when all the leaves have fallen off and the plant is dormant, the canes may be cut off in 15 inch lengths. To insure larger blooms and fewer branches, cut the cane to leave only one eye, similar to pruning a grape vine.

"Poinsettias may be started by planting the lower and larger end of the severed cane with two eyes under the soil. They require plenty of water at all times."

Dr. Herbert, whose prolific

Plans and Dreams

LANDSCAPE FOR LIVING, by Garrett Eckbo, N. Y., Duell, Sloan & Pearce. \$10.00, 1950.

This book is recognized as the second attempt to present the contemporary theories of landscape design, the aim of which is "the

fourteen foot prize-winner last year had 283 blooms, reports more than 300 blooms on the same plant this November 1, and may again be in the running for a trophy despite heavy loss of branches from wind. In describing their plant, the Herberts attribute its growth to the south-east corner and deep area of top soil. Other poinsettias on their property do not flourish nearly as well as this.

Home makers seek constantly the formula for preserving poinsettia blooms as cut flowers. Allan Zukor, of Broadway Florists, who packed several of Dr. Matson's blooms last year to be sent to President Truman, Gov. Thomas Dewey and Prime Minister of Canada St. Laurent, says: "Plunge cut stems into boiling water for two or three minutes and then dip entire flower, bloom and all, into cold water. It is possible to keep the flowers for as long as ten days if the room is not too warm. For mailing, wrap water-saturated cotton around blooms and bottom of stems, covering stems also with waxed paper. Wrap box in cellophane and seal with hot iron. Put this container inside shipping crate and send via air. All of last year's blooms were received in good condition."

establishment of good relations between the physical forms of nature and the physical manifestations of man in the landscape."

In relating the art of the landscape architect to modern trends, he quotes from such celebrated moderns as Frank Lloyd Wright, Lewis Mumford, Moholy-Nagy, Wilenski, Kepes, Charles Eliot, Joseph Hudnut, Le Corbusier, making the whole book a synthesis of modern ideas of man's life on earth, its manifestations in art forms, its necessary adjustment to natural surroundings and vice versa.

He uses such phrases as space concept, materials concept, social concept, time-space presentation.

It is a thoughtful book. One feels the urgency that drove the author, a practicing landscape architect of a firm with offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco, to work into his busy schedule the writing of this well-organized and integrated volume of text, quotations, photographs and drawings. The larger part of the illustrations show the work of Eckbo, Royston and Williams, Planning Consultants and Landscape Architects. They include large residential developments, public housing, recreational areas, and intimate gardens.

He recognizes that the primary steps in landscaping are surfacing, enclosing, enriching, in that order. But people are in the center of his landscape always.

He analyzes the work of architect and landscape designer, giving each his due, showing how their spheres must overlap, how without collaboration their results appear disjointed.

The subject naturally expands into the larger aspects of planning—the city, the countryside—where he sees, ideally, architecture, engineering, landscape design, no longer separate functions, but absorbed into a higher art.

The implications are far-reaching; the inspiration is dynamic; there is a certain modesty and clarity in the presentation of large concepts. The format and illustrations are in complete accord with the subject.

The one earlier, on the subject to which he refers, is *GARDENS IN THE MODERN LANDSCAPE*, by Christopher Tunnard. N. Y., Scribner's. \$5.00, 1948.

Specialties

THE LILY YEARBOOK OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LILY SOCIETY. Number Three. George L. Slate, Editor. Published by the Society. Geneva, N. Y. 1950.

That this is the third yearbook is evidence of growing and enthusiastic interest in lily culture. An interesting feature is that a good proportion of the text is devoted to lily culture and native lilies on the Pacific Coast. The longest article in the book is Exploring for Pacific Coast Lilies of the United States, by S. L. Emsweller of the

United States Department of Agriculture. It is presented in diary form, and we learn that on September 14 and 15, 1949, he was in San Diego County where the explorers were shocked to find Lake Cuyamaca dried up. Nevertheless, a few specimens were found in the area.

ORCHIDS AND HOW TO GROW THEM, by Adelaide C. Willoughby. Oxford Press. \$3.50, 1950.

HOME ORCHID GROWING, by Mrs. Rebecca Tyson Northen. N. Y., Van Nostrand. \$6.00, 1950.

Designed to help the amateur, carries him through the years of an orchid's development. The author, a trained biologist, includes a key to the tribes, genera, and a list of sources of plants and supplies. There are eleven color plates.

VIOLETS FOR GARDEN AND MARKET, by Grace L. Zambra. Forest Hills, N.Y., Transatlantic Arts. \$2.50, 1950.

AMERICAN ROSE ANNUAL, 1950. R. C. Allen, Editor. Harrisburg, Penn., The American Rose Society. \$4.50, 1950.

Also to be found are new or recent books on the camellia, rock gardens, annuals, or what you will.

A Luxury Item

GARDENS OF CHINA, by Osvald Siren. N. Y., Ronald Press. \$30.00, 1949.

An expert on Chinese art has turned his attention to the Chinese garden, outlines their history, theory, interpretation, considers them a supreme work of the creative imagination. There are 219 plates, 12 in color. It is to crave.

For the Traveler

A TRAVELER'S GUIDE TO ROADSIDE WILD FLOWERS, SHRUBS AND TREES OF THE UNITED STATES. Kathryn S. Taylor, Editor. N. Y., Farrar, \$3.00, 1949.

Published under the auspices of the Garden Clubs of America, this is primarily a book to carry on trips. In condensed form it gives essential information to identify more than 700 plants and then, state by state, locates the flowers where they may be found, gives dates of blooming, other facts. It is a suitable companion volume to *THE GARDENER'S TRAVEL BOOK*, reviewed in an earlier issue.

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Alfred C. Hottes, renowned lecturer and author and former editor of *California Garden*, continues his series of cover drawings for our publication, and illustrates his illustration with—

The Christmasrose

ALFRED C. HOTTES

Even in the coldest spots of our country, the Christmasrose bursts forth from the snow and blooms in midwinter. It is always a surprise to go out into such a garden and find this precocious blossom.

The Kinds. The commonest Christmasrose, more anciently called Black Hellebore is *Helleborus niger* but there are many other kinds. This species, illustrated on the cover, bears greenish or pinkish-white flowers with numerous stamens as in a buttercup. The leaves are handshaped and here, in Southern California, they are evergreen. The variety we usually grow is *altifolius* which is larger in all its parts, and blooms before Christmas in our climate. In the east, it springs into bloom whenever the ice thaws. A picture in a British garden magazine shows a plant with over one hundred flowers.

Often we see the Corsican Hellebore, *Helleborus lividus (corsica)*. The leaves are more spiny-margined, gray-green, 3-parted, and might be mistaken for a mahonia. Blooming in winter, the flowers are chartreuse and borne in racemes a foot long. Rosecroft Gardens have a number of these plants.

Another species, the Lentenrose, or Oriental Hellebore, *Helleborus*

orientalis, comes from Asia Minor. We know it best from the numerous hybrids which have flowers varying from light to dark purple. The flowers droop and seem bell-shaped. Unlike *H. niger*, the flower stems are branched.

Stories. Many stories are told about the medicinal uses for hellebores. Gerard, in 1597, mentions their use for "mad and furious men, for melancholick, dull and heauie persons." Even Hahnemann, founder of homeopathic medicine, believed that at least one-third of the patients in lunatic asylums would not be there had they been properly treated with hellebore.

The name, Hellebore, may be translated as "the food of death." The word *Helleborus* should be pronounced Hel-lebé or-us.

Arthur E. and Mildred V. Luedy are authors of a little book "The Christmas Rose," which they publish privately at Bedford, Ohio.

A Legend. It is related that many years ago, twelve days after Christ was born, to be exact, a poor girl was wandering down the road. When in the distance she saw a great caravan of men and camels. Hiding behind a tree, she watched this opulent display of grandeur as the Three Kings and their retinue of servants passed, bearing gifts to the Infant Jesus. She had nothing to give, and as she wept and prayed, prostrate upon a bed

of moss, she seemed to catch a fragrance, and looking up, saw an angel bearing a stalk of Madonna Lily.

"Do not weep," said the angel. "I know your wish. You had hoped to send a gift to the Holy Jesus and to ease the way of the weary Wisemen. Look about you. The moss has burst into glorious bloom even though it is winter."

The pious girl gazed to right and left and saw snowy flowers opening their chalices all about her. She looked down the camel trail and realized that the whole pathway to Bethlehem was flowering.

"I would call these Christmas-roses," she murmured. And so do we, even today.

Culture. Perhaps Christmasroses are better where the temperature is lower. Here winters may not be cold enough, but occasionally we find hellebores in the gardens of plant lovers. They like semishade, a rich, limey soil, and a good mulching with shredded cow manure. They love moisture but not boggy conditions, nor do they prefer a leafmold soil. They resent transplanting and dividing. They may remain in one spot until the crowns become very crowded. Even then the clumps should not be divided into small one-eye pieces as they are slow-growing and do not develop quickly. "Never remove the leaves as it deprives the attached eyes of their food supply," warns T. A. Weston.

Mrs. Lippitt, who lends enchantment to each season with her sparkling and spontaneous observations, turns the leaves of her notebook to Winter.

Leaves from the Observer's Notebook

By MARION ALMY LIPPITT

Holly Berries

Since watching my neighbor's Toyon bush (California Holly) through the seasons, I am now carrying the torch for a Toyon in every landscape. I look across the road to this one beside my neighbor's brown-shingled bungalow. In summer its feathery white plumes towering above the roof are a rich promise of the clusters of its vivid red berries. They herald so fittingly the gaiety and gladness of Christmas. When these berries have gone, the dark green glossy leaves remain to cheer us on until the bush blooms again.

A letter from a friend in Palestine says, "Christmas in Palestine might be Christmas in Southern California, their climates are so similar!" Rather painfully I have had to loose myself from snowy Christmas scenes and picture instead roof-high poinsettias in state-ly profusion growing perhaps beside The Stable door.

I'll confess I do not know whether poinsettias grow in Bethlehem, but I do know that in the spring Bethlehem's fields are colored with red anemones, and the

"It is the privilege of the naturalist to concern himself with a world whose greater manifestations remain above and beyond the violences of men."

From "The Outermost House"
by HENRY BESTON.

shores of the Sea of Galilee are fringed with pink oleanders and purple iris in their seasons.

How deeply we need Christmas and that reassuring Voice year by year patiently teaching us the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. We learn so slowly.

*Now seeds are just dimes to the man in the store,
But it flashed through my mind as I took them this time,
You have purchased a miracle here for a dime!*

*You've a dime's worth of power which no man can create,
You've a dime's worth of life in your hand!*

*In this bright little package, now isn't it odd?
You've a dime's worth of something known only to God.*
from "The Package of Seeds"
by EDGAR A. GUEST.

Visiting Hours.

A bumble bee came first. A white butterfly, with a touch of orange about his head, then lighted for an instant. A small black purposeful gnat, flying in a straight line, preceded my ruby-throated hummingbird. They each stayed for a brief second. Quite evidently they had dropped in on their way to something more important.

"Hail and farewell," they waved in passing.

The climax was reached when some twenty very small wren-like birds drifted into the Cecil Bruner rose trellis. (California bush-tits, I believe. I prefer to call them wrens and they don't mind. They look and act like wrens.) They made the vine look as if stirred by a busy breeze while they sniffed the few remaining roses. Quick, think of something more bewitching than wrens among Sweetheart roses!

At this point two mocking birds, arguing ardently, flew into the Catalina Cherry. I, of course, was curious, and in endeavoring to locate them, I left the wrens to their active enjoyment of the roses. When I had satisfied myself that the mockers' discussion was purely parental, I glanced back at the wrens. They had completely disappeared. I felt cheated!

Several times later in the morning I caught glimpses of the whole wren contingent, obviously doing the rounds of the neighborhood. They might have been the San Diego Floral Association on a garden tour. I suspect them of making farewell inspections of favorite haunts before migrating for the winter.

CHRISTMAS ROSES — MAIDENHAIR FERNS —

the fine mist variety, so difficult to find

ROSECROFT GARDENS

SPECIAL PLANTS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

Charles L. Harbison, Curator of Entomology at the San Diego Natural History Museum since 1934, infects us with his enthusiasm for cacti, a hobby he pursues on a trip into Mexico, seeking a lost species. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Mr. Harbison is a member of the Fellows of the Natural History Society of San Diego.

Seeking the Orcutt Cardon in Mexico

CHARLES F. HARBISON

"Much the finest of the large Cerei of Baja California, being densely covered with bright, yellowish brown spines," so stated Mrs. Katherine Brandegee, former resident of San Diego and a botanist of note, in her description of the new cactus which appeared in *Zoe* of June, 1900.

Mrs. Brandegee had before her material collected from a plant growing in Charles Russell Orcutt's garden, 21st and J Streets, in San Diego. This industrious gentleman had brought back the cutting from which his plant had grown, way back in 1886 from the vicinity of El Rosario, Baja California.

According to old accounts, the branch which grew into Mr. Orcutt's cultivated specimen was not

cut from the wild plant by Mr. Orcutt himself nor did he see it growing in the field. His guide, a young Mexican lad that he had hired at fifty cents a day, had "found it off the trail some little distance" and had brought a branch to him.

As far as I have been able to find out, the wild plant grew in a side arroyo of the main valley that leads to Aguajita. This original plant has been destroyed by fire according to information obtained from a present day resident of El Rosario who said that a Mexican youth set fire to the spiny cactus in order to destroy a giant rattlesnake hiding under the plant.

The present main road south from the village of Rosario runs up the Aguajita valley. The side arroyo, called by the Mexicans "Arroyo de la Pitahaya or de la Pitalla Dulce," enters the main valley west of Aguajita spring from the north and can be located readily by the explorer, because it is only a short distance east of a giant specimen of tree yucca, *Yucca valida*, and a very large cardon, *Pachycereus pringlei* standing as a sentry at the mouth of the arroyo.

Gordon Marsh and the author explored the Arroyo de la Pitahaya for the Orcutt Cardon or its burned remains, but without success. The arroyo has a number of forks as one proceeds north and we had only part of one day for our hunt. Many floods have occurred in this vicinity since the cactus was burned and all signs of the plant could have been washed away.



Señora Anita G. Espinoza holding cutting of *Pachycereus Orcuttii* later donated to Huntington Gardens. Photographed by Mr. Thor Nielsen. Photograph courtesy Cactus and Succulent Journal of America.



Pachycereus Orcuttii (K. Brandegee). Mr. Orcutt and type plant, 1900. Photograph courtesy Cactus and Succulent Journal of America.

With the cooperation of Señora Anita G. Espinoza, two plants of the Orcutt Cardon have been discovered south of Rosario and many miles from the locality of the original 1886 collection. In March of this year Señora Espinoza sent me two branches of this rare cactus collected by an Indian, after she had shown him a copy of the photograph of Mr. Orcutt and his garden-grown plant. One of these branches was damaged and could not be used as propagating material. The other, which I planted in my own garden, has rooted and is growing.

During the latter part of March and early April, we made a trip to

Rosario to see the re-discovered plants in the wild and to take photographs of them. We brought back two more cuttings. One of these was given to George Lindsay who sent it to a Botanic Garden in Arizona. According to a report from Mr. Lindsay, it has rooted and is growing. The other cutting, the one Señora Espinoza is holding in the photograph accompanying this article, was presented to the Huntington Gardens at San Marino.

Laurence M. Huey, Curator of Birds and Mammals at the San Diego Natural History Museum, after seeing the picture of the re-discovered plant, recalls having seen many of these spiny cardons growing on the hillsides south of the main Rosario River valley, about 15 miles due north of what the author believes to be the type locality. The latter part of October of this year we decided to visit this locality to verify Mr. Huey's report and if possible to collect seed from this rare cactus.

When Mr. Lindsay visited the wild plants south of Rosario in July of this year, the fruits were too green to gather, but he collected

another cutting which has been turned over to Howard E. Gates, owner of the "Famous Cactus Gardens" at Corona. He also took photographs of the plant and noted that this year there should have been many fruits and countless seed.

On the night of October 25 we crossed the line at Tijuana at 6:30 p.m. and proceeded to Ensenada. Here we filled up on gasoline and checked our oil and water. We travelled over a fine graded road to the place where the arroyo that runs down to the Johnsons' ranch crosses the highway. Here we camped for the remainder of the night.

The next day we reached El Rosario in the early afternoon. I engaged the Indian to go on horseback to the locality south of Rosario where the two plants of the re-discovered cactus were growing and to bring back five fruit containing seed. Then my two companions, Bayard H. Brattstrom and Robert W. Howell, and I started on the road east of El Rosario. We hoped to make camp in the Rosario Valley some miles east of the Aguajita Valley road and in the locality where Mr. Huey believes that many specimens of the rare cactus can be found. Unfortunately, we had gone only seven miles when the clutch of the car started to give trouble, so we had to return to the village.

We hired two horses and a mule the next day to go on with our exploring but found that Mexican caballos are very slow on the move. We went up to the vicinity of Aguajita Spring and hurriedly explored a new canyon east of the Arroyo de la Pitahaya where Señora Espinoza's brother-in-law said that the spiny cardon could be found. We did not reach the

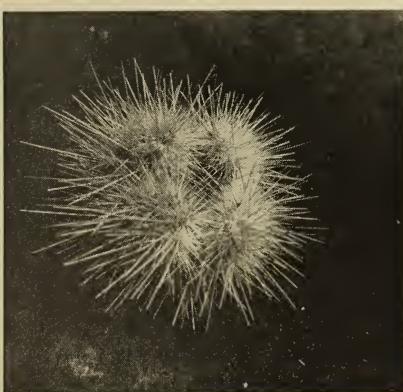


Buds of the flower from wild plant. Lee Passmore photograph courtesy of Cactus and Succulent Journal of America.

region where Mr. Huey had seen the cactus many years ago. We hope to go back again during Easter vacation when we will cover developing fruit with protective cages.

Birds and small mammals had feasted on the seeds of this year's fruit crop, probably not realizing that they were dining on such valuable treasures, so when the Indian returned he brought only one fruit with a few seed. These have been turned over to Mr. Gates, an experienced grower of cactus, with the hope that they will germinate.

We still plan to make it possible for every local cactus enthusiast in San Diego county to have his own specimen of the beautiful Orcutt Cardon. Hasta luego, mis amigos.



Fruit viewed from above. Lee Passmore photograph courtesy of Cactus and Succulent Journal of America.

Mr. Harbison, who wrote "Rediscovery of the Lost Species of Cactus, *Pachycereus Orcuttii* (K. Brandegee)" for the July-August, 1950, issue of Cactus and Succulent Journal, obtained permission for California Gardener to use several of the pictures published with the article, and kindly condensed the material into garden-reading for this publication.

In Appreciation

In working with the Ways and Means Committee of the Floral Association and getting down to monetary facts and figures, I wish to report that the show budget allotment just about enabled us to put on a respectable show in spite of unexpected expenses.

We had reduced the entrance fee by one-half, from previous years, and had only short daylight hours to be able to invite people to the Tea Garden. Nevertheless, we have a substantial sum left over to put away in the Mary A. Greer Fund. It is adding to our Lay-Away Plan so that when the time comes, we may build a true Garden Center Building. So much for the financial report.

Here is the most important report of all. That is, that I cannot compute the number of hours donated in actual physical and mental, and, shall I say, spiritual labor. Then the gasoline and telephone calls and shoe leather used. I defy any bookkeeper to tabulate it all.

But when the show opened, somehow there were no signs of frayed edges or frazzled nerves. Nothing left of the flurried, confused, almost frustrated periods of the past weeks.

Inside the building we found a transformation. Hopeless spots were bowers of beauty. The rooms had been arranged and the arrangements in place—each quietly giving of their individuality to make a whole.

There was no reminder of the traffic jam of trucks, the dust blowing on our cleanly washed garden.

Yes, a flower show means months of work by many people in many ways. The real recompense is the satisfaction, the knowledge that something beautiful has been created and shared.

—SHOW CHAIRMAN.

DEAR DOROTHY:

Here is something which I really think you should know.

My son Peter, age 6, went in to the Chrysanthemum Festival with his aunt and young cousin and returned most enthusiastic about flower shows. I had given him

a quarter to spend on anything appropriately edible. What do you think he did? He spent the whole twenty-five cents on Watsonia bulbs, picking out special colors!

Thank you for putting on a show that would influence my son to buy bulbs instead of pop.

Gratefully,

CARROLL MASON.



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Harold L. Curtiss, Ass't. Superintendent of Parks here since 1946, started out as a Pasadena Park Department draftsman; three years later was landscape architect in charge of Wyoming's state-wide system of George Washington Memorial Parks design and construction program. For seven years he headed up the U. S. Forest Service recreational planning in Utah, Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming. He recently served as a Director of the American Institute of Park Executives. He is a graduate of the University of California.

Block Harmony Through Planting Street Trees

By HAROLD L. CURTISS

There are numerous methods by which you might improve the appearance of your city, all of them meriting your time, effort and money. I know of no single item including utilities, sanitation and housing which for so small an expenditure of money and effort will give greater satisfaction to community life and to the people of a city than the planting of the proper types of trees along our streets.

Many people on their first visit to some of our southern California cities are surprised at the lack of trees along the streets in the residential districts. It seems paradoxical in cities that pride themselves on their fine schools, parks and art museums. What is the explanation for the lack of beauty on so many of our streets? There are perhaps three main reasons:

1. *Climatic conditions.* Due to the cool, more or less foggy summers, and the temperate winds in our coastal cities, sunshine has come to have a high value in places like Long Beach, Santa Monica, San Diego, etc. For this reason street trees are sometimes not considered necessary for shade, but they are very much needed for ornamental and aesthetic purposes.

2. *Lack of "know-how"* on the part of property owners as to how to go about finding whether there is an official street tree for their street.

3. *Insufficient width of street dedications by subdividers.* As a

result of local experience and study of data presented and prepared for the Western Shade Tree Conference, Planning Commissioners have been urged to consider no dedication for street purposes of less than sixty feet in width, of which thirty-six feet shall be paved and twelve feet remain on each side between curb and property line for the sidewalk planting area, i.e. for the street trees. The application of this sound principle when subdividing lands to be cut up into lots would result in greatly improving the street tree situation in our coastal communities. In San Diego for example, good street tree programs have been materially hampered by insufficient widths of the sidewalk planting area, in which to plant and grow specimens in our local soil and climatic conditions.

It is evident then that the chief value of tree planting along the streets of our coastal cities is for ornamental effect. As a general rule only smaller types of long-lived trees are suitable for the average residential street in our coastal communities, including San Diego.

The right kind of street planting in these cities would be desirable because:

1. It would relieve the monotony of barren treeless streets characteristic of whole sections of some of our communities.
2. It would give tone and character and increase the dollar value of properties and of whole blocks,

if all the trees on both sides of a street were of one uniform kind or variety. If done on a city-wide scale it would have great tourist value. The tourist values and dollars have always held a high place in the economy of San Diego, Long Beach, Santa Barbara and other seaside cities.

3. It would foster neighborhood pride through providing definite aesthetic values.

In many neighborhoods established civic, business and service clubs and organizations including Lions Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs and others have demonstrated their ability to raise funds and to buy and plant street trees along one entire street at a time. An outstanding example of what one service club has done in this field is the work done by the Mission and Pacific Beach Lions Club in 1948-9.

The manner of going about to get the project under way is similar to that used by other interested citizens groups in the past, and it might be of interest to the readers of this article to know how it was done. In the first place the committee applied to the City Street Tree Supervisor in the Park and Recreation Department for tree planting permits, which are issued without charge by the City. They requested a list of street trees to be designated for the different streets which they proposed to plant. The Supervisor made a survey of the existing heterogenous varieties of trees at present grow-

ing along the streets in question and recommended to the Park Commission that certain tree varieties be designated as the official tree for each of the streets. The purpose of thus designating the official tree was in order to secure a uniform planting of one single variety in the block or blocks, a variety that had proven to be best suited for that particular condition of soil, wind, climate, width of street and width of city parkway, etc.

The Club then proceeded to raise the necessary funds by holding dances, picnics and other types of gatherings so that they could go to the local nursery and

purchase at wholesale rates enough trees to plant one entire street at one time, as mentioned above. With these funds in sight they then hired a few men to dig the tree holes and plant the street trees in the city parkway between the curb and the private property lines. Now, two years later one may drive up Fanuel Street in Pacific Beach, beginning at the north end of Mission Bay and see street trees extending for more than twenty blocks along both sides of the street up to the foothills at the north edge of the community.

Following this same procedure this forward looking civic club

recently raised some four to five hundred dollars and with this fund undertook the street tree planting of another street for its entire length through their community, Loring Street. The Highland Garden Club assisted by planting two blocks. From the ocean on the west to the foothills on the east this important avenue has been planted with one of San Diego's best growing ornamental trees, the Carob or *Ceratonia siliqua*, a tree of distinction.

Mr. Harry W. Whelby of the Mission and Pacific Beach Lions Club will tell you that it is the expressed hope of this civic club to continue this highly commend-



STREET trees make the difference: Upper left, Euclid Avenue north of El Cajon Boulevard. Upper right, Euclid Avenue south of El Cajon Boulevard. Lower left, Compare this block without trees with the desirability of this planted block, lower right.—Photographs by Harold L. Curtiss.

able civic beautification project by encouraging other clubs and organizations in their area to each take an entire street, or entire block each year, until the whole of this fast growing community has been planted with street trees in accordance with the master street tree plan for each of their important thoroughfares. The policy of these Pacific Beach groups is to schedule a principal street for tree planting immediately upon completion of the streets being widened or paved. In this way they know what the finished grade of the sidewalk area will be and the width of the tree planting strip. Where the sidewalk is next to the property line the trees are naturally planted between the walk and the curb. On some of the new subdivisions in the eastern part of the city, where the sidewalk and curb are built as an integral unit, i.e., adjacent to each other, the trees are planted in the city-owned tree planting strip between the sidewalk and the front of the house, which means usually within three to five feet back of the sidewalk, between it and the front property line.

Elsewhere in San Diego this far-sighted work is going on, undertaken by small groups of property owners. Out on 47th Street the residents on both sides of the first block south of El Cajon Blvd. applied for street planting permits and arranged to plant the Schemel Ash, *Fraxinus uhdei*, within the sidewalk parking area in their block. In such cases it has been pointed out that there is a considerable saving in the cost of trees from local nurseries when one or more blocks are planted at one time, thus allowing wholesale rates.

A permit is required for the planting of street trees for several reasons: many trees do not thrive

where they are subject to adverse soil conditions, crowded or narrow planting strips between curb and sidewalk; continuous winds, and insect pests. Other trees which will thrive are not suited for street tree planting because of their shape or their susceptibility to disease, or because the branches of the trees are brittle and are dangerous to pedestrians as well as a serious maintenance problem during and after storms.

In most of our southern California cities the procedure for securing a street tree planting permit is a relatively simple one for the property owners. They call for, or telephone for, and fill out an application blank for permit to plant street trees. This they secure from the local park and recreation department or from the park department in their city. After this has been mailed in to the city street tree supervisor he will investigate the type of tree predominating on the street in question and will recommend a type or variety of tree that will best meet the growing conditions along that street. After the Park Commission has approved his recommendation a tree planting permit is mailed to the property owner. On the newer streets where there is no predominant tree already growing the supervisor will designate the official tree for that street. The above permit specifies the variety of tree designated as the official one for the street and calls attention to the fact that "No other specie or type of tree may be planted other than that named in the permit." The reason for this is obvious, for only in this way is it possible to secure the fine appearance that goes with a uniform planting of one variety on both sides of the street. There is no cost to the owner for the street tree planting permit in most of our Southern California cities.

Experience has shown that for our southern coastal cities certain street trees are satisfactory under most conditions, given a reasonable width of sidewalk planting strip, i.e. not less than five feet of width. These may include the Red-flowering Eucalyptus, the Washington Fan Palm, the Cocos Plumosa Palm, the Sweet Gum, (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), the Carob, the Dwarf Evergreen Elm, (*Ulmus pumila*), the Jacaranda, the Shamel Ash, etc.

In conclusion let's each of us advise those of our friends who may be new homeowners of the "How" and "Why" of planting the right kind of street tree in front of their homes so as to obtain a uniform planting and thus secure block harmony.



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Chrysanthemum Festival, 1950

An inviting lawn in front of a bamboo hedge . . . masses of chrysanthemums—only a hint of the fairyland inside the stone lanterns forming the portal to the Chrysanthemum Festival in Balboa Park October twenty-first. There the Oriental landscape, with dwarf trees and bridges over quiet pools and paths was a setting especially created to honor the queen of fall flowers.

From the fine named plants, displayed by individuals and nurserymen, and huge cut blooms grown by the Navy Hospital, down to interesting new seedlings named for garden friends, there were chrysanthemums to satisfy every enthusiast.

An arrangement of unusual plants by the Park Nursery, land-

scaped effects by professional nurserymen, a series of garden saints, displays of paintings and pottery as well as exhibits by fuchsia, begonia and other societies, were all enhanced by the beautiful redwood fence enclosing a successful show.

A small room crowded with professional arrangements was the source of continual exclamations over superb blooms set up with the dashing artistry only florists can command.

Tea tables on the porch hummed with appreciative comment. As a finale in a near-by building, visitors were shown movies of garden methods and insect life.

—BYSTANDER.

William Bain, who has had practical farming experience on his father's ranch in Reno County, Kansas, gives advice on the use of peat humus.

Humus

WILLIAM BAIN

Nature has taken hundreds of years to perfect Bear State Peat Humus, which consists principally of decayed vegetable matter and fish. Alive with active bacteria-forming substances, it starts almost immediately on application to penetrate the soil. Odorless and entirely free of weed and foreign seeds of all kinds, the humus has a tendency to change alkaline soils to acid.

My experience with this product proves that it is not a fertilizer but assimilates the plant foods already in the soil and makes it possible for plants to draw quantities of nitrogen from the air.

A "shot in the arm," it takes from four to eight weeks before the results can be noticed. One liberal application usually lasts from five to ten years.

Experiments prove that vegetables and fruits have a higher vitamin content when grown in soils with plenty of organic matter and humus. Flowers take on more brilliant colors, both in foliage and blossoms.

Visible proof of the results as achieved by Bear State Peat Humus may be seen among the celery fields in Venice, Calif., in the orchards of Huntington Beach, in the avocado groves at Rincon. Treadwell's Nursery in El Cajon and Hilldale Chrysanthemum Gardens in El Cajon also sing the praises of this product.

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Your Garden

ROBERT H. CALVIN

DECEMBER: As soon as deciduous trees and shrubs shed their leaves, pruning is in order. R. Sanford Martin's books on pruning are a good investment that will pay off even in the one-tree orchard. A general rule for renewing flowering wood each year: remove one-third to one-half of the old growth of most common shrubs and vines. Do not prune plants such as weigelas, spireas and flowering fruit trees until after they bloom in the spring. To encourage more bloom on wisteria, cut the vine back to 4 to 5 buds. Pruning will prolong the life of a heather. If you doubt your ability as a pruner, call in an expert . . . Plan for new roses and other bare-root stock soon available. When preparing planting holes, remember that no deciduous plants thrive without drainage. Break through hardpan and install drainage tiles to carry off excess moisture. Peat moss is excellent material to use in soil that is in direct contact with bare roots. Reacting on the acid side, it helps to neutralize our overly alkaline soils . . . This is the right season to set out tulip bulbs . . . Sweetpeas planted now will bloom in early summer . . . Use a dormant oil spray to clean up the eggs of scale insects that winter over on shrubs and trees. Spray fruit trees susceptible to curlyleaf, brown rot and shothole fungus with one of the basic copper-sulphate sprays or with the lime-sulphur and oil combinations. Spray thoroughly or not at all . . . Double clarkia, with spires of

small, rosy carnation-like flowers, is a good plant for lazy gardeners. Simply broadcast the seed in the open ground, for a May harvest.

JANUARY: Bareroot roses, fruit trees, flowering fruits and shrubs are best planted this month. Guard against exposing roots to the air or setting plants too deep in the soil. On bud-grafted stock the bud union should always be above the earth. This applies to stock in cans as well as bareroot. Failure to observe these two simple rules often causes dying out of plants. Buy bareroot plants from local nurseries so you can select those with vigorous root growth and husky canes. Before planting, examine roots and cut all broken tips back to healthy tissue that

Remember the Floral Association garden visits of former years? With the revival of this gala spring event May 5 and 6, there is ample time to consult your favorite landscape architect or nurseryman about sprucing up your garden in readiness for visitors.

will heal and send forth new shoots. This is the time to remove deciduous trees, and to plant evergreens with balled roots . . . After the 15th of this month, prune and remove all leaves from established roses. Seal cuts on larger canes with a pruning compound. Spray the bare canes of roses and the cleared ground around them thoroughly with a lime-sulphur oil emulsion . . . Cleanliness in the garden will pay off in healthy plants. Do not burn fallen leaves —turn them into compost . . . Consult seed catalog for spring annuals to start in glasshouse, cold-frame or sunny window. Try raising tuberous begonias from seed —tedious but rewarding . . . Place begonia tubers in flats of moistened peat or leaf-mold . . . Do not prune plants injured by frost until danger of further

damage is passed . . . Incorporate compost, well-rotted manure, and peat moss in heavy soils when the earth will not stick to the tool. Apply gypsum at the rate of 5 to 10 lbs. to 100 sq. ft. of area, at the same time. Leave the soil rough, to absorb rain.

FEBRUARY: Finish the pruning of all deciduous materials by the 15th. Work in compost or well-rotted manure around the trees and roses after pruning, but keep it away from plant stalks. All deciduous material should be planted by end of the month . . . Prune fuchsias after the 15th, cutting back each lateral to 2 eyes. Take off at least two-thirds of the old growth. Mulch with 2 inches of leafmold and well-rotted manure, equal parts . . . Do not overwater plants without leaves . . . Apply 4 to 5 lbs. of commercial fertilizer to the lawn towards the end of the month. Organic fertilizers last longer . . . Weeds are on the march —add them to the compost heap. If you cannot, or will not make compost, pull the weeds and leave on the ground to wilt, then turn under, for humus in the soil . . . Watch plants for first signs of aphids, and spray immediately. If you kill the first hordes, you will have the situation in hand . . . Continue dividing perennials . . . Start hardwood cuttings of boxwood, bougainvillea, hydrangea, holly, oleander and rose in sandy soil. Camellia cuttings require half sand and half peatmoss. Make soft green cuttings of begonias, dianthus, agave, fuchsia, carnation, geranium, heliotrope, pelargonium, penstemon, salvia and verbena. Start in coarse sand . . . Work in well-rotted manure plus bonemeal around iris now . . . Many winter vegetables may still be planted, in addition to spring vegetables that go in now.

W. A. BUERGER



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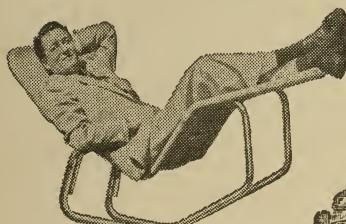
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